

HOW TO... Create your own website

If you don't have a website these days, it's almost as if you don't exist. Karl Wright can rescue you from obscurity with the WebPage Creation Kit, on your cover DVD

Everyone and his dog seems to be on MySpace or have their own blog these days, and any business that doesn't have a website is instantly at a disadvantage. However, unless you're already web-savvy, actually getting your own website online can be a daunting prospect. In this walkthrough we'll show you how to design your website and get it online in just six steps. And best of all, you can find the full version of the software you'll need to get the job done on this month's cover disc. To start the installation process, simply insert the cover disc into your PC's optical drive, wait for the browser to start and then double-click the entry for Boomerang Software DesignShop, which you will find on the Full Products tab.

1 During the installation process you will be prompted to enter your details and register the software. When the program opens for the first time you may want to customise your default settings, such as the background colour for your websites. You can find these under File, Preferences, WebSite. Even if you don't touch anything else, it's worth taking the time to try out different fonts. The default font is Times New Roman, which has a rather amateurish look to it.

2 Next, choose a template for your site. From the Start menu, select New. This opens the template picker. Pick a category from the drop-down menu (for instance, Art & Education, Business & Finance, Personal and so on). Each category contains a selection

of templates for you to choose from. Once you have selected the template, click OK and your new site will open for the first time in WebPage. We chose to use a blank template because we like clean, simple designs, but there are plenty of different templates to choose from.

3 The software automatically creates a homepage for your new website. Before you can create any more new pages, you need to design your homepage. This will then serve as a master for all your other pages.

The first thing to do is to create a table, into which you can place your text and all the other elements that will go on your page. To do this, open your homepage by double-clicking on it in the program's Site Manager, which opens by default. From the Tables menu, choose Insert. We created a left-aligned table that spanned 65 per cent of the page, with two rows and two columns. The top-left cell is to remain empty, the top-right cell is for the page title, the bottom left cell is for the navigational links and the bottom right cell is for the text. At this point, all the cells are still empty. Because we set the table border to zero pixels, the table itself will remain invisible to the reader.

4 Now we need to add some navigational links to our homepage. Like the table, these will be common to all the pages in our site. Place your cursor in the bottom-left cell and go to Insert, Navigation Bar. Choose to insert Home and First Level pages vertically and, from the second tab, choose the colour and other formatting options for the bar.

Once you have done this, go back into Site Manager by clicking its tab on the taskbar. Right-click your homepage and choose Duplicate from the context menu. Do this until you have the desired number of pages in your site. All your new pages will contain a navigation bar (now updated to reflect the pages you have added) and your table.

5 Now you can place text and images into your site. First, place your cursor in the top right-hand cell of the table and type the title of the page in question. Highlight what you've typed and, from the menu on the top left, choose Heading1. Place your cursor in the bottom right-hand cell, go to the Insert menu and choose to insert text. Navigate to the plain text file that contains the text you want on this page, select it and click OK (this is the most convenient way to insert large chunks of text).

To insert images, choose Image from the Insert menu, import the image you want to use into your image library and then place it wherever you like. Make sure you choose the right wrap-around options; otherwise, the text and image won't sit together properly on the page. Do this for all the pages in your site.

6 When you have finished designing your website, go to the File menu and choose Upload Site. You will find details of the free webspace provided by Boomerang on this month's cover disc. Click upload and your site will be published to the web. When prompted, allow the software's FTP service access through Windows firewall. **CS**

